

Metrics for Closing Campus Berea College Administrative Committee

The Administrative Committee (AC) has been charged by the Board of Trustees with decision-making as to the restart and continuation of on-campus instructional activities. This statement represents a draft outline of the likely decision points for consideration of terminating on-campus operations should that become necessary during the Fall 2020 Term. Please note that the AC may need to adjust these criteria according to any broader impacts of COVID-19 and other external circumstances.

Should we have to cease on-campus, in-person instruction this fall, it would be less disruptive to do so at the session break. (That was one of the reasons for selecting this academic calendar structure.) Still, this cannot be guaranteed, and all faculty offering in-person courses and staff working on campus, regrettably, will need to be ready on short notice to shift as much as possible to distance learning and/or remote work as occurred last March.

The criteria for considering ending on-campus instruction are:

1. Our fall re-opening is premised on the expectation that by employing and enforcing public health guidelines in rigorous fashion, we will be able to operate safely on campus with individual cases not turning into outbreaks with community spread. **If this premise is found to be unfounded by actual experience, the AC will consider whether to cease in-person operations on campus.**
2. We have identified approximately 60 spaces suitable for quarantining or isolating students—isolation for up to 14 days being necessary if contact tracing identifies a student as having transmissible contact with another student who had tested positive. Students will be quarantined for up to 14 days if they test positive for the virus. **If we reach an occupancy of 80 percent of the available spaces during the term, we would need to consider ceasing on-campus activities.**
 - Please note that local hotels will be suitable for isolating students, so that our quarantine spaces can be reserved for actual cases if needed.
3. Faculty teaching in person and staff working on campus who test positive will self-quarantine at home until cleared by a medical professional to return to work. (For these employees, if it is unworkable to quarantine at home, Human Resources staff will assist in determining an appropriate alternative.) **If at any given point we reach a positive current caseload of 10 on-campus employees, cessation of on-campus activities will be considered by the AC.**

Various extracurricular activities will be available for residential students, including, for example, athletics. Separate metrics will be in place for continuation of these opportunities. **Typically, if and when a second positive case occurs for students engaged in that activity, the AC will consider suspension of that student activity.**

Please note that in the event of a positive test result on campus or in the community, the Madison County Health Department is responsible for handling contact tracing. We have designated employees who will serve as liaisons to that office to assist with the activity and ensure good communication with campus leadership.

It is also expected that employees and students immediately report to Human Resources and Student Life, respectively, if they receive a positive test outcome, either as a result of the random checks¹ we will be doing, or as a result of developing COVID-19 symptoms.²

Questions or comments regarding this communication can be addressed to President Lyle Roelofs at roelofsl@berea.edu.

¹ Before the start of the fall term, the College will publish a random COVID testing program for both students and employees. This random testing program is intended to help our community prevent the spread of the virus. People selected will not bear any personal cost to take a test. Look for more details in the coming weeks.

² (From the CDC website <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>)

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear **2-14 days after exposure to the virus**. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea